

Oswald allegedly given envelope

By EARL GOLZ

Adrian Alba Sr. of New Orleans has told investigators for the House Assassinations Committee he saw an FBI agent give accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald an envelope through the window of one of the government cars parked under contract in Alba's auto storage garage.

Alba, who was acquainted with Oswald when the alleged incident occurred in the summer of 1963, told The News he had never seen the FBI agent before or after the alleged Oswald contact.

Oswald frequently visited Alba's garage office, which was next door to the coffee company where Oswald was working.

ALBA SAID the FBI agent checked out a Secret Service car from Alba's garage because no FBI cars were available at the time. It was the same green Studebaker, he asserted, from which Oswald was handed the large envelope one day later in front of the coffee company.

Alba said he told committee investigators he checked out the car to a man who showed credentials as an FBI agent from Washington, D.C. "who was flown down and needed a vehicle." He said he "wouldn't remember his name, even what he looked like."

Oswald left the coffee company building and "at the same time, he's

going across the banquette (sidewalk), the car pulls up and stops," Alba said.

"THEN AS THE CAR pulls up, Oswald bends down as if to look in the window and is handed what appeared to be a good-sized envelope, a white envelope.

(Oswald) turns and bends as he does it as if to hold it (envelope) to his abdomen, in which I would imagine would go under the T-shirt that he always wore outside of his khaki pants.

"He turns in this bent position and hustles on off across the banquette and back to the building, straightening up as he crosses the banquette and his hands are free."

The purported FBI agent kept the Secret Service car about four or five days before returning it to the garage, Alba told committee investigators.

Oswald and the same car had another "timed rendezvous" at the same spot about two days after the first one, he said, but only words were exchanged.

"I'M NO DRAMATIST and I'm no fabricator," the 47-year-old Alba said. "I never have been. I've always tried to walk the straight and narrow. I have tried to avoid as much publicity with the thing as possible."

Oswald visited frequently with Alba in his garage office from May 6 to July 19, 1963, when he worked at the William B. Reilly Coffee Co. next door.

Alba, an avid gun collector, talked guns with Oswald and loaned him his gun magazines, some of which were found in Oswald's apartment after the assassination.

Alba did not mention the envelope incident to two FBI agents who interviewed him a day after the assassination, he said, because he hadn't remembered it until years later when a television commercial reminded him of the exchange. By that time, he said, speculation was rife that Oswald had been an FBI informant.

HE TOLD COMMITTEE investigators who deposed him that he would take "truth serum" or a lie detector test, he said, but they "told me that wasn't necessary."

Former FBI agent Warren de Brueys, who monitored Oswald's movements in New Orleans in 1963 before the assassination, said it "sounds sort of asinine" for an FBI agent to drive a Secret Service car because the FBI in New Orleans "had our own garage, separate and apart from" the Secret Service.

"I don't know if that's ever happened where an FBI agent would be driving a Secret Service car," de Brueys said. "I am not saying it couldn't happen, but the odds were a million-to-one against those sort of facts existing."

Dallas Times Herald 8/7/68